

INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

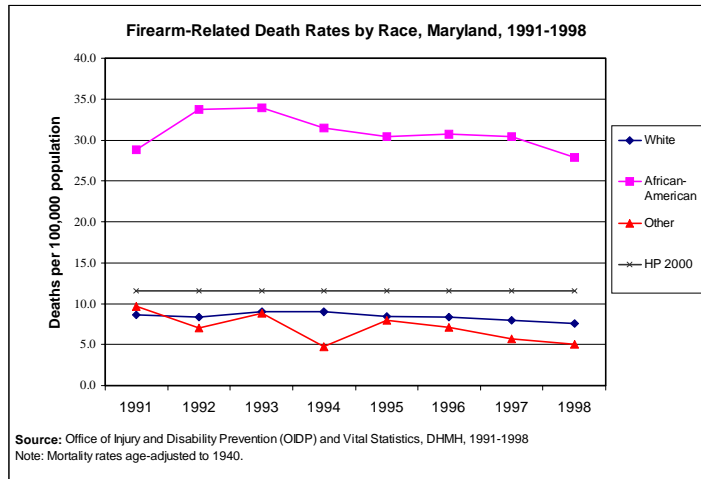
The Issue

Firearm-related deaths, a leading cause of injury deaths in Maryland, occur at rates that have surpassed comparable national rates. A variety of preventive measures, if implemented, can help change this trend.

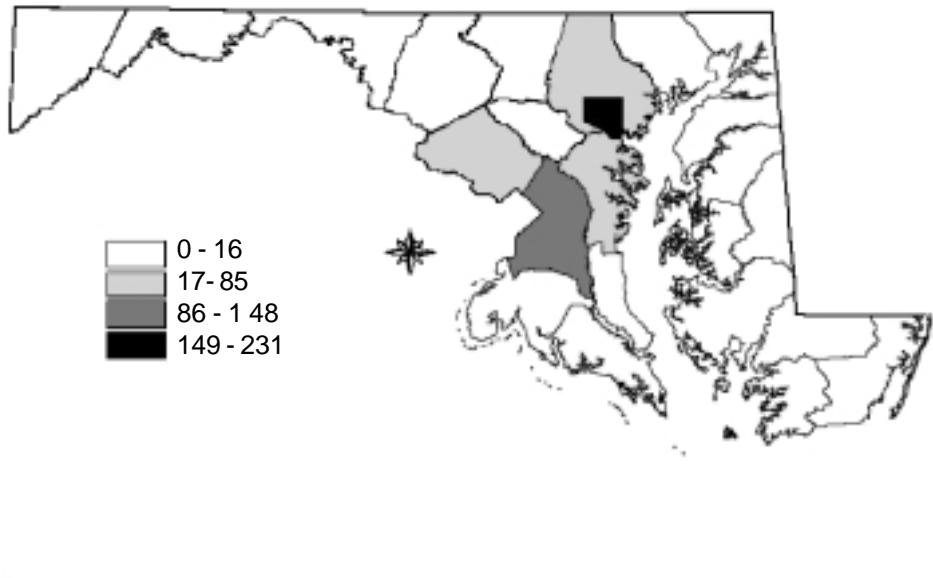
Violence and injury claim the lives of many of the nation's young people and threatens the health and well being of people of all ages in the United States. On an average day in America, 53 people die from homicide and a minimum of 18,000 people survive interpersonal assaults, 84 people complete suicide, and as many as 3,000 people attempt suicide. Youth are involved as both perpetrators and victims of violence. The elderly, females, and children are targets of both physical and sexual assaults, often initiated by an acquaintance.

Injury is often thought of as an unpreventable "accident." But, in fact, many injuries are not accidents, nor are they random uncontrollable acts of fate. Most injuries, due to a variety of causes such as motor vehicle crashes, firearms, poisonings, suffocation, falls, fires, and drownings, are predictable and preventable. Suicide and homicide are the leading causes of intentional injury deaths.

Firearm-related deaths are the leading cause of injury deaths occurring in Maryland. Fortunately, from 1989 to 1998, the firearm-related death rate declined overall to 14.1 per 100,000 in 1998, from 17.2 per 100,000 in 1993.



Geographic Distribution of Deaths From Firearm-Related Injuries, 1998



Source: DHMH Office of Health Statistics, 1998

Maryland's firearm-related death rate has surpassed that of the United States every year since 1992 and has fallen short of the Healthy People 2000 goal of 11.6 per 100,000 deaths every year since 1990.

Topics, by jurisdiction, included in the Health Improvement Plan

Statewide - *Reducing Firearm-Related Deaths*

Talbot County - *Reducing Interpersonal Violence in the Lives of Children*

Priority focus in other jurisdictions

Injury and Violence Prevention is included as a priority area for FY2000 in:

Anne Arundel County • Calvert County • Carroll County • Charles County
Dorchester County • Harford County • Montgomery County • Washington County

Highlights of HIP strategies recommended to decrease injury and violence

(for in-depth details, see the complete text of each state and county module)

- Decrease the gap between African-American and white firearm-related deaths. (**State**)
- Reduce the juvenile violent crime arrest rate. (**Talbot County**)

Statewide Partners

Johns Hopkins University • Maryland Association of County Health Officers • Maryland Local Health Departments • Maryland Local Management Boards • Office of Injury Prevention, DHMH
• University of Maryland, Baltimore County • Violence Policy Center • Violence Research Group